



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Albuquerque Man Sentenced in Santa Fe on State Tax Related Charges

Santa Fe – On March 17, 2008, First Judicial District Court Judge Stephen D. Pfeffer sentenced Marshall J. Johnson, of Albuquerque, to 12 years in prison as a result of Johnson's February plea agreement regarding New Mexico tax related charges. Judge Pfeffer suspended the prison time and sentenced Johnson to 5 years of supervised probation. In addition, Johnson must pay \$13,455 of restitution to the State of New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

Johnson was indicted in January 2007 on ten felony counts of False Statement and Fraud in connection with his filing of false Personal Income Tax Returns from March to October 2004. The returns contained Social Security Numbers of individuals from Texas who did not earn income in New Mexico and did not know Johnson. One of the false income tax returns filed by Johnson used the Social Security Number of a man who has been deceased since 1997. Additionally, Johnson was indicted on ten counts of Computer Access with Intent to Defraud or Embezzle in connection with the electronic filing of those same returns.

Judge Pfeffer told Johnson, "This sounds like quite a scheme – a stupid scheme." Pfeffer continued, "If you fail to make reasonable restitution payments or violate your probation in any way, you're looking at 12 years in prison." Had he gone to trial, Johnson faced a possible seventeen years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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